

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(currently amended)** A ~~locking device for a screw coupling~~ including a locking device, said screw coupling comprising first and second components rotatable in relation to one another during screwing and unscrewing, the first component comprising a first thread and a rotating engagement formation distant from the first thread, the locking device being mounted on the second component and comprising:

- a coupling component for coupling with the engagement formation,

- a stop component connected for common rotation with a body carried by the second component, the body connected for common rotation with the second component, and

- disconnectable coupling means between the coupling component and the stop component,

wherein the disconnectable coupling means comprises a ratchet allowing relative rotation in the direction of unscrewing when a torque at least indirectly applied to the coupling component and the stop component with respect to one another overcomes a predetermined elastic resistance, the torque between

the coupling component and the stop component resulting from a torque applied between the first component and the body.

**2. (currently amended)** The ~~locking device~~ screw coupling according to claim 1, wherein the disconnectable coupling means comprises axially pointing teeth formed on the coupling component and on the stop component, which are urged towards one another by a spring in the direction of teeth interpenetration.

**3. (currently amended)** The ~~locking device~~ screw coupling according to claim 2, wherein the coupling and stop components are axially movable in relation to the body and are commonly urged by the spring towards a stop provided in the body for the coupling component.

**4. (currently amended)** The ~~locking device~~ screw coupling according to claim 1, wherein the coupling component can be drawn back against a spring and comprises a stop for engagement of a shoulder of the first component in order to limit the axial extent by which the coupling component is able to cover the engagement formation.

**5. (currently amended)** The ~~locking device~~ screw coupling according to claim 1, wherein the body is formed as a

cup enclosing the stop component and partially enclosing the coupling component.

6. **(currently amended)** The ~~locking device~~ screw coupling according to claim 1, wherein the stop component and the coupling component are mounted around a tube of the second component, which is internally threaded for screwing with the first component.

7. **(currently amended)** The ~~locking device~~ screw coupling according to claim 1, wherein the body can be fitted onto a second engagement formation integral with the second component and the body having an engagement formation which can be used in place of the second engagement formation in order to carry out the relative rotation of the first and second components by means of tools.

8. **(currently amended)** The ~~locking device~~ screw coupling according to claim 1, wherein the body is secured onto the second component by snap-fit.

9. **(currently amended)** The ~~locking device~~ screw coupling according to claim 1, wherein the body is secured onto the second component by crimping.

**10. (canceled)**

**11. (currently amended)** The ~~locking device~~ screw coupling according to claim 1, wherein the locking device is adapted to be mounted as a single unit onto the second component.

**12. (currently amended)** The ~~locking device~~ screw coupling according to claim 1, being entirely mounted on the second component.

**13. (currently amended)** A pipe coupling comprising a first pipe end-portion provided with an external thread, a second pipe end-portion, a nut which is rotatably mounted on the second pipe end-portion and can be screwed on the external thread of the first pipe end-portion, and a locking device ~~according to claim 1~~ for selectively locking against relative rotation the nut and the first pipe end-portion provided with the external thread, the locking device being mounted on the second pipe end-portion and comprising:

- a coupling component for coupling with the engagement formation,

- a stop component for common rotation with a body carried by the second component, the body connected for common rotation with the second component, and

- disconnectable coupling means between the coupling component and the stop component,

wherein the disconnectable coupling means comprises a ratchet allowing relative rotation in the direction of unscrewing when a torque at least indirectly applied to the coupling component and the stop component with respect to one another overcomes a predetermined elastic resistance, the torque between the coupling component and the stop component resulting from a torque applied between the first component and the body.

**14. (previously presented)** The pipe coupling according to claim 13, wherein the first and the second pipe end-portions and the nut are standard non-modified components.

**15. (currently amended)** The ~~locking device~~ screw coupling according to claim 2, wherein the coupling component can be drawn back against the spring and comprises a stop for engagement of a shoulder of the first component in order to limit the axial extent by which the coupling component is able to cover the engagement formation.